



UNITED STATES MISSION
TO THE
NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION
AND EUROPEAN REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
(USRO)

2 RUE ST. FLORENTIN
PARIS 1. FRANCE

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Dear Lane:

At a lecture at the NATO Defense College today, M. R. Aron, the French journalist, said that, in his opinion, the West will not be able to make a threat of war over Berlin plausible to the Soviets. He said that the Russians will not believe that the Western countries are "ready to blow up the planet for the city of Berlin". Aron added, however, that this should not deter the West from making the threat which he saw as necessary. He expressed these ideas during the question period following his lecture, which was a theoretical talk on sources of national power.

I thought that this thought would be interesting to you, particularly coming from Aron. Aron also observed that a limited atomic war might be possible in other parts of the world, but he did not see that it could be for Europe. He felt that in Europe a "tactical atomic" war would surely lead to an all-out thermonuclear war. He noted that Russian writers have been saying that they will not stop with the use of tactical atomic weapons if these are employed.

Sincerely yours,

Joseph J. Wolf
Director of Political Affairs

B. E. L. Timmons, Esquire,
Director, Office of European
Regional Affairs,
Department of State,
Washington 25, D. C.

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